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**Items for information:** Other topics

**Country experiences and practices on various sectoral  
statistics in the Philippine statistical system<sup>1</sup>**

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Vital Statistics .....	2
3. Economic Statistics.....	6
4. Agricultural Statistics .....	7
5. International Comparison Programme .....	8
6. Coordination of Statistical Capacity-Building Activities .....	9
7. Millennium Development Goal Indicators .....	10
8. Informal Sector and Informal Employment Statistics.....	11
9. Disability Statistics .....	12
10. Gender Statistics .....	14

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## 1. Introduction

This country paper presents the relevant experiences and good practices of the Philippines in the field of statistics. It also articulates the recent initiatives and developments of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) as well as the challenges currently faced by the system.

The Philippines is one of many countries with a decentralized statistical system. The PSS has evolved through several stages in response to the prevailing political, economic and social policies of the government. The emphasis on development planning in later years and the lack of capacity and resources of the national statistical agencies to address data demands led to the creation of research and statistics divisions in existing departments to provide for their data and information needs. As a result, a decentralized system emerged whereby statistical services are managed and supervised by the respective agencies with overall coordination by a national body.

The present PSS is the result of a comprehensive review of the system that was undertaken in 1986 by a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral committee constituted by the Philippine government. The review was also undertaken in line with a government-wide reorganization which saw the need for necessary and proper changes in the bureaucracy in order to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services. The recommendations of the committee provided the basis for the reorganization of the PSS in 1987 which recognized the need to maintain a decentralized statistical system characterized by independence, objectivity, and integrity to make it more responsive to the requirements of national development. Its mission is to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics for the government and the public, especially for planning and decision making.

The PSS is made up of six major statistical agencies, such as the National Statistics Office (NSO), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) which acts as the policymaking and coordinating body on statistical matters. The PSS includes also the other data producing agencies in the government. With the inadequate resources and other constraints, the PSS continues to seek for alternative measures and strategies toward responding to the current and emerging demands of the various clientele and stakeholders. The PSS also continues to effect improvements in its capacity to provide quality statistical products and services. Likewise, it recognizes the need and the desirability to conform to international standards, comparisons and practices, and to provide support and cooperation to the statistical endeavors of the international community.

## 2. Vital Statistics<sup>2</sup>

The National Statistics Office (NSO) takes charge of the civil registration system (CRS) in the country, with the NSO Administrator as the Civil Registrar General (CRG). A civil registration unit called the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) is created in every local government unit (LGU) and it is headed by the City/Municipal Civil Registrar (C/MCR).

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<sup>2</sup> Prepared by the National Statistics Office.

The CRG provides technical supervision to the Local Civil Registrars numbering around 1,600 in the country. It was in 1930 with the enactment of Act No. 3753 (Civil Registry Law) where the systematic registration and archiving of vital events was legally defined and instituted.

Civil registration is the most important source of vital and health statistics. The vital statistics and indicators derived from the civil registry records are used to plan and evaluate the needs for health programs, social services and other needs of the population. These are also used to measure fertility, morbidity and mortality of the social groups in the community and as basis for studies on population change.

The NSO implements a continuing capability building program for the civil registrars, solemnizing officers and other stakeholders in the civil registration system. Every other year, all C/MCRs gather in a national workshop on civil registration. The 5<sup>th</sup> National Workshop on Civil Registration was conducted in August 2010. The NSO also conducts a national convention every other year to provide venue for updates on new laws, policies and sharing of ideas among solemnizing officers. The 6<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Solemnizing Officers was conducted in August 2009. The NSO through its field offices also regularly conducts training, workshops, lectures and fora with civil registry personnel, solemnizing officers, and other stakeholders during the Civil Registration Month (February) and other special occasions.

The following are the developments and progress on the civil registration in the country:

(a) Civil Registry System-Information Technology Project

In order to provide a quality civil registration and statistical products and services, the NSO entered into a Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) project with Unisys Philippines through the implementation of the Civil Registry System-Information Technology Project (CRS-ITP). The NSO CRS-ITP is a 12-year undertaking of all civil registry operations of the NSO in which the Unisys builds infrastructure and then gradually transfers management and maintenance responsibilities to the NSO.

Through the CRS-ITP, the NSO established 40 Census Serbilis Centers (CSCs) in selected areas for on-line processing of requests of civil registry documents from the public. Six (6) CSCs are located in Metro Manila, 14 in regional centers, and 20 in provincial areas.

In addition to the CSCs, the clients may also avail an on-line application of birth, marriage, and death through E-census. The web-based transaction services are offered through <http://www.ecensus.com.ph>. Another option for the public is the NSO Helpline Plus which is a call center servicing applications for civil registry documents through telephone. The people can call anytime and it is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Upon payment in accredited banks and after the processing period, the requested document is delivered right at the doorstep of the owner of the document.

(b) Batch Request Query System

To extend the availability of service locations to the grassroots level, the NSO developed the Batch Request Query System (BREQS) which

allows the LGUs, government institutions, travel and recruitment agencies, and other non-government organizations (NGOs) to accept applications for civil registry documents which shall be processed in the nearest servicing outlet. Under this system, the BREQS Partner will enter into a memorandum of agreement with the NSO and shall collect a reasonable amount in addition to the fees collected by NSO. To date, there are 352 LGUs, 29 travel/recruitment agencies, two NGOs, and 42 Shoe Mart branches as BREQS partners.

(c) Conversion of Civil Registry Documents into Digital Format

The conversion of civil registry documents into digital format involves the process of scanning of civil registry documents and transformation into digital images and eventual uploading in the civil registration system (CRS) database. As of November 8, 2010, the NSO CRS database contains 135.32 million records for vital events registered from 1945 to 2010, with breakdown as follows: births- 96.02 million, marriages - 21.44 million, and deaths - 17.86 million.

(d) Barangay Civil Registration System

The NSO developed the Barangay Civil Registration System (BCRS) where civil registration is facilitated at the community level. Under this scheme, the Barangay Secretaries and Barangay Officials assist the C/MCRs in civil registration work. The BCRS is an effective mechanism in ensuring vital registration among marginalized sectors (Muslim Filipinos and Indigenous Peoples) and those living in far flung and remote areas.

The BCRS is now in its implementation stage in cities and municipalities where the Birth Registration Project and Plan Philippines Program Units operate (around 120 municipalities). A proposal on the amendment of Act No. 3753 includes provisions on BCRS to become compulsory in all local civil registration programs.

(e) Decentralized Vital Statistics System

The quality and timeliness of the data rely on the technology used in the processing of the civil registry documents (CRDs) and generation of vital statistics. The NSO enhanced the old version (DOS) of the Decentralized Vital Statistics System (DVSS) and came up with the DVSS 2000 (DVSS2K), a windows-based version designed to assist the NSO Provincial Offices in the processing of CRDs in their areas of responsibility.

With the DVSS2K, the NSO Provincial Offices are able to generate vital statistics at the city/municipal and provincial levels, facilitate the transfer of files encoded to the central office, and speed up the data conversion of CRDs as input in indexing of document images. This system uses the Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC), Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC), and the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Deaths (ICD 10).

(f) Philippine Civil Registry Information System

At the local level, the NSO developed the Philippine Civil Registry Information System (PhilCRIS) for use of the Local Civil Registry Offices and other end-users and for implementation in 2011. The PhilCRIS was

designed to further enhance the civil registrar's capability to meet the growing demand for civil registry documents. The PhilCRIS software is distributed by the NSO to the LGUs free of charge.

The features of PhilCRIS are the following: (i) encoding of relevant information from civil registry documents; (ii) storage of vital data; (iii) query and retrieval of encoded records; (iv) printing and issuance of certified copies of encoded civil registry documents; (v) generation of transmittal files, data management; and (vi) maintenance of the local civil registry database. A User's Manual was prepared that provides a complete step-by-step instructions on the installation and operation of the program.

(g) Revised Civil Registry Forms

Civil registry forms and its attachments were revised to conform with the new laws, policies, rules and regulations. The revised civil registry forms which will be implemented in 2011 will address emerging concerns, such as: (i) more spaces for important items like Names, Date and place of event, etc., and the remarks/annotation portion in some civil registry forms; (ii) addition of critical information for planning health programs and inputs to health researchers (to provide estimates of maternal and infant mortality); (iii) additional information to ascertain the identity, lineage and condition of the person or the event being registered; (iv) ensure accuracy of information entered even if the entry is misaligned in the succeeding copies; and (v) address archiving concerns. A manual of instructions on the accomplishment and coding was published by the NSO to guide the civil registry personnel and other end-users in the implementation of the revised civil registry forms.

(h) Mobile Registration

Mobile registration is an outreach registration activity conducted by the LCROs during special events, such as Civil Registration Month during February. This activity is very useful for mass registration especially in areas/communities that are known to have high number of unregistered vital events.

Civil registration work is also incorporated in several regular community activities and special community events. Actual registration of vital events is done during conduct of mass wedding, job fairs or caravans, pre-natal check-ups, operation "timbang", and others.

(i) Vital Registration Assessment Project

The NSO, Department of Health (DOH) and other civil registration stakeholders carried out an assessment in March to June 2009 through the Vital Registration Assessment Project (VRAP). The World Health Organization (WHO) and the University of Queensland (UQ) provided a Vital Registration Tool that was used in evaluating the Philippine civil registration and vital statistics. The NSO and DOH through the VRAP have conducted 3 batches of training on ICD 10 to C/MCRs, doctors, NSO coders and statisticians, and medical records officers.

(j) Policy Advocacy

The NSO in partnership with Plan Philippines embarked on the Unregistered Children Project (UCP) and the Birth Registration Project

(BRP) to address legal and policy reforms that will strengthen the vital registration system. Under the implementation of these projects, three proposed bills were passed into law: (i) Republic Act No. 9048 (Clerical Error Law); (ii) Republic Act No. 9255 (Use of Father's Surname for Illegitimate Children); and (iii) Republic Act No. 9858 (Legitimation of Children Born to Parents Below Marrying Age).

Other policy reforms that have been instituted through the issuance of administrative orders and memorandum circulars were: (i) birth registration guidelines for Children in Need of Special Protection cases; (ii) procedures on civil registration for the Indigenous peoples; and (iii) supplementing the procedures of the civil registration system among Muslim Filipinos.

The NSO shall continue to lobby for the amendment of the Civil Registry Law, with the proposed bill pending at the Congress. The proposed amendment aims to incorporate and update civil registration laws and policies, institutionalization of the BCRS, and the implementation of free birth registration..

### **3. Economic Statistics**

As the official compiler of the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA), the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) has long recognized the need to improve the PSNA by among others, updating the base year and migrating to the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). The NSCB started its efforts in this direction more than 10 years ago. In addition, the documentation and transparency in the compilation of the PSNA has been significantly enhanced with the posting of Technical Notes and related PSNA materials on the NSCB website. Further, while the implementation of 1993 SNA in the PSNA has been a high priority for NSCB and a significant amount of work has also been undertaken in this area, the full implementation of 1993 SNA has not been achieved.

One of the key recommendations in the 1993 SNA is the use of Chain Volume Measures (CVM) in lieu of constant price estimates. The use of CVMs effectively makes it unnecessary to "update" the base year, because when CVMs are used, the base year is changed every year. With the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian government and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the NSCB conducted various activities to implement the 1993 SNA recommendations including the use of CVMs. During the conduct of these activities, it was realized that due to limitations of the price indexes compiled by the PSS, the use of the CVMs could not be implemented yet. Thus, the current efforts in implementing some of the 1993 SNA recommendations would be geared towards using a more updated year. In two regional conferences organized by the ADB and UN ESCAP in Bangkok in 2000 and in 2001, it was recommended that countries updating the base year of their national accounts use 2000/2005 as a common base year. The rebasing/revising of the PSNA with 2000 as base year will be completed in May 2011, with technical assistance from the World Bank to enhance the capacity of the NSCB in undertaking the major revision of the PSNA and to implement the 1993 and 2008 SNA as far as currently feasible, given the available data for the Philippines. Meanwhile, exploratory studies will be undertaken in coordination with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other PSS agencies for the required price indexes for the CVMs.

The revision of the PSNA intends to conform to the new set of international statistical standards and guidelines of the updated 1993 and 2008 SNA. The activities to be pursued under this activity are geared towards an improved series of national accounts that will be more accurate and useful for policy analysis, development planning, and decision-making. The revised PSNA will also be harmonized with other frameworks, such as the Balance of Payments Manual 6 and the Government Financial Statistics, and will be updated to incorporate new developments in SNA practices, suitably adapted to local conditions. The coverage and quality of industry surveys, as provided by the National Statistics Office (NSO), will also be improved.

But even as the international statistical community under the stewardship of the UN Statistics Division continues to find ways to improve the guidelines on the compilation of national accounts, parallel developments are taking place on the measurement of genuine progress of societies. In 2007, the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy held in Turkey issued the Istanbul Declaration which highlighted “the need to undertake the measurement of societal progress in every country, going beyond conventional economic measures” such as the GDP. Basically, this arose from the realization and recognition that while the GDP is the most widely-used measure of economic activity, it is not an appropriate measure of welfare. Thus, “the time is ripe for our measurement system to shift emphasis from measuring economic production to measuring people’s well-being.” In fact, international organizations and many countries have undertaken initiatives in this direction thru measures such as the Human Development Index, the MDG indicators, and measures of happiness. In the Philippines, the NSCB has conceptualized the Philippine Happiness Index (PHI) as a supplementary measure of existing measures of progress. An update of the PHI has recently been done by the NSCB.

#### **4. Agricultural Statistics**

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) under the Department of Agriculture is the agency mandated to undertake agricultural surveys to generate statistics in the agriculture sector in the country. The BAS is one of the major statistical agencies in the Philippine Statistical System (PSS).

In the recent years, the BAS has been undertaking activities to improve existing data systems and the delivery of statistical products and services. These improvements include among others the following: (a) implementation of the Enhanced Information System for Palay (EISP), (b) inclusion of ethanol in the sugarcane data system, (c) development of a unified processing system for all crops other than palay and corn, (d) development of improved questionnaire for the Commercial Livestock and Poultry Survey (CLPS), (e) implementation of regional Broiler and Swine Information System – Early Warning System (BSI-EWS), (f) improvement of data system for tuna and seaweeds, and (g) implementation of the Costs and Returns Survey of Palay Production with disaggregation by cropping (first and second croppings or dry and wet season croppings).

In terms of disseminating agricultural statistics, the BAS has implemented the CountrySTAT, a web-based system that integrates national food and agricultural statistical information to ensure harmonization of national data and metadata collections for analysis and policy making. It was made possible through the project “Strengthening the

National Statistical Systems of Selected Countries in the Asian and Pacific Region” which was funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The CountrySTAT called for the development of the metadata system and the preparation and publication of metadata is another major component of the Project.

The CountrySTAT Philippines serves as a complementary system to FAOSTAT. The CountrySTAT outputs are designed to load easily into FAOSTAT. Following the FAOSTAT framework, the CountrySTAT Philippines has statistical data series surrounded by statistical metadata. The databases in the CountrySTAT Philippines are organized according to major domains identified by FAO and under two major groups: CountrySTAT Core and CountrySTAT Sub-national. The core data consist of national data, such as those generated by BAS, NSCB, NSO and other PSS agencies, shared with FAOSTAT database while the related or subnational data are those with subnational relevance. This arrangement of CountrySTAT Core and Subnational Data provide end-users with the possibility of “navigating” through the databases from either geographic or thematic paths. The CountrySTAT system requires the preparation and publication of good metadata. All the databases and statistical tables posted in the CountrySTAT are adequately backed up by metadata.

Another new development in disseminating data is the BAS – Electronic Archiving and Network Services (BEANS), a web-based survey cataloguing system powered by the National Data Archive (NADA) application developed thru the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) under the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21). This system serves as a portal for researchers to browse, search, apply for access, and download relevant census or survey data and metadata. The BEANS system was developed for the purpose of serving as a tool for informing statisticians and users about the existence and characteristics of survey, census or other microdata sets, and for sharing metadata and (optional) disseminating microdata sets, along with information on policies and procedures in place for their access and use.

## **5. International Comparison Programme<sup>3</sup>**

The Philippines was involved in the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) which started in July 2003. Its involvement included the selection of items to be included in the list, the firming up of the structured product description of the items, the conduct of series of price surveys, the validation of survey results vis-à-vis those of the other participating countries and up to the review of the computed purchasing power parities (PPPs). The Administrator of the National Statistics Office (NSO) served as the Chair of the Regional Advisory Board for the 2005 round of the ICP Asia-Pacific. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the regional coordinator for ICP Asia and the Pacific while the World Bank is the overall (global) coordinator.

An important by-product of the ICP is the support, and in some instances, the initiation of national and international efforts to improve the quality of price statistics and national accounts data, upon which the calculation of PPPs depends. New tools for data collection like the “what to

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<sup>3</sup> Prepared by the National Statistics Office.



price guide” together with the colored product catalogue for more accurate product identification help improve the quality of collected price data. Improved spatial coverage of price surveys, that is, covering outlets located in rural areas provides for better representation of prices collected.

The Structured Product Design (SPD) was instrumental in highlighting the need for tight specifications for accurate product identification as it assures the comparability of products being priced especially for non-food items in the CPI. In the preparatory activity for the rebasing of the CPI in the Philippines, the design of the questionnaire for the Commodity and Outlet Survey (COS) is being guided by the SPD in the ICP. The results of the COS will be used to determine the items being purchased by the households.

The software Tool Pack for processing ICP/CPI can contribute to more efficient processing of price data used in constructing the CPI. Using this software, the validation of price data and monitoring of the survey operations will result to improved accuracy of the CPI. Harmonization of the regular CPI survey with that of the previous ICP survey is being considered in order to preserve the acquired technical capability of the NSO staff in carrying out the required statistical activities for the new PPP. As such, several activities geared towards the harmonization/linking of the CPI with the ICP are being planned by the NSO.

On the gross domestic product (GDP) weights estimation, the NSCB undertook additional estimation activities to be able to satisfy the disaggregation of the GDP expenditures into the 155 basic headings. There were problems encountered in the computation of details required by the ICP as only the GDP expenditures for the major items were available. However, in order to obtain the details of the GDP expenditures on the Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) side, the structure generated from the 2000 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) was used.

The ICP project has provided insights on how other countries in the region do their price surveys and their pricing practices. The possibility of replicating PPP computation across regions of the country is among the important benefits the Philippines has gained from participating in the project. The same can be done with PPP for the poor.

The Philippines also participated in the 2009 ICP Updates, the results of which will be released in 2011. In the ongoing 2011 ICP Asia Pacific round, the Philippines is one of the 22 participating countries, with the NSO Administrator as the Chair of the Regional Advisory Board. Preparation for the surveys to be conducted in 2011 is currently done by the countries.

## **6. Coordination of Statistical Capacity-Building Activities**

The Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) is the research and training arm of the PSS with the objective of improving the quality of statistical information generated by the PSS through the conduct of responsive statistical research and training activities, both at the national and subnational levels. Regular and customized training courses on statistics are being conducted by the SRTC for the government and the private sector as well as for participants from other countries. Partnerships with international institutions to host specialized training courses are likewise arranged by the SRTC. So far, the SRTC had coordinated regional

and country courses sponsored by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank (WB).

Amidst resource constraints, it is imperative that the PSS avail of the assistance provided by various development partners. In this regard, the PSS has benefited greatly from the multilateral and bilateral development partners. Statistical capacity building has been enhanced by the technical and training assistance as well as the methodological work of the international and regional statistical community, particularly the SIAP, UN Statistics Division, World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations Development Programme.

A Scholarship Program offering graduate scholarship grants in statistics was included under the Re-engineering the Government Statistical Services Project launched in 2001 through the joint support of the Government of the Philippines and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with the SRTC as the coordinator. The primary objective of the program was to address the future professional requirements of the PSS through provision of scholarship grants to deserving employees of the major statistical agencies. Under the program, 15 scholarships were earmarked to be awarded for Master's (10) and Doctorate (5) degrees in Statistics at local universities. However, there were only a few takers of the scholarship grants. For the master's degree program, only three have so far completed their degrees while the others have yet to complete their thesis. For the doctorate program, only two enrolled but one of them discontinued the course and the other one has yet to complete the dissertation.

The personnel of the major statistical agencies and other PSS agencies are continuously encouraged to take up graduate degree courses in statistics and related fields at local and foreign universities through sponsorship. Currently, there are scholarship programs provided by institutions in Japan and Australia which the PSS personnel can avail.

Statistical capacity building should not only be conducted for the producers of statistics but also for the users of statistics, such as the policymakers, legislators, and media. With this, the PSS also conducts users' fora, press conferences, appreciation seminars for the media, etc.

## **7. Millennium Development Goal Indicators**

The Philippines is one of the signatories in the Millennium Declaration and as such, has been regularly preparing the Philippine Progress Reports on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which not only define where the country is relative to the MDGs, but also outline the challenges that have to be overcome in order to attain these goals. The MDGs serve as the framework for the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) which presents the country's major policies and programs that will be pursued for the next six years to win the government's fight against poverty and other problems and challenges. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) which leads in the formulation of the MTPDP also spearheads the preparation of the Philippine progress reports. Recently, the Philippine Fourth Progress Report on the MDGs was made available by NEDA.

While the NEDA takes charge of preparing the reports, the NSCB does the maintenance of the database of the MDG indicators for the

country. The online database lodged at the NSCB website presents time series of MDG indicators that are available and applicable to the Philippines. The system can generate multidimensional statistical tables, charts and thematic maps and enable users to download tables in various file formats. Likewise, for greater understanding of the users, a metadata is provided, which includes the definition, method of computation/estimation methodology, method of data collection, source agency, frequency of release, time lag, years available, and level of disaggregation, of each MDG indicator compiled.

Statistical coordination mechanisms that support the generation and dissemination of MDG indicators are organized, such as consultative meetings and other fora to advocate and communicate the MDGs; technical/interagency committees and technical working groups to resolve data issues on MDGs; Philippine Statistical Development Program to institutionalize generation of MDG indicators and to address data gaps, concepts and definitions; and localization of MDG Indicators through the NSCB Regional Divisions to support monitoring efforts at the subnational level.

The NSCB, as the official repository of MDG indicators in the Philippines, maintains an MDG Watch lodged in its website. The MDG Watch presents the progress of the Philippines at the national and regional levels, on each of the 45 MDG indicators available at the PSS. It provides the probability of attaining the targets based on the current rate of performance for each indicator vis-à-vis the required rate to attain the target by 2015 and the time distance measures, which looks into the time dimension deviation between the actual implementation and the implied path to target in 2015 for a given target. The time-distance measure reflects status whether the implementation is ahead or behind the target.

Recently, the NSCB produced the MDG poster and brochure of the MDG Watch with funding assistance from UNICEF. The poster and brochure serve as advocacy tools for various agencies and organizations to contribute to the country's attainment of the MDGs. Aside from presenting the national progress for each indicator, the status of the MDGs in the regions is also highlighted in the poster.

## **8. Informal Sector and Informal Employment Statistics**

There have been several studies/researches on the informal sector and past efforts along this line indicated the data gaps and limitations in estimating the contribution of the informal sector (IS) to the economy. It was then a challenge to incorporate the IS in the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA).

With the difficulties in gathering data and even in adopting an operational definition of the IS based on NSCB Resolution Nos. 15 (Series of 2002) and 16 (Series of 2003), the Philippine approach in quantifying the IS is a measurement of the "unorganized sector" in the Philippine economy. The "unorganized sector" is defined as that area or sector not covered by the establishment surveys in the PSS. Estimates of the unorganized sector were incorporated in the PSNA during the third revision of the PSNA and cover the period 1980 onwards.

The unorganized sector in the PSNA includes the underground/informal production activities undertaken by unincorporated

household enterprises with some market production. The outputs per se of these activities are not illegal but these activities are not registered possibly to avoid government regulations and taxation and partly because of the registration requirements. Such activities can be found in most industries i.e. ambulant peddlers, moneylenders, street food vendors, tricycle operation, gold panning, among others. For some households, these activities are their primary and/or secondary source of income. Some households do engage in these types of activities without knowing that they are required by law to secure business licenses/permits before engaging in such production activities.

Implicitly, the unorganized sector in the PSNA also covers the illegal activities such as smuggling, prostitution, illegal logging, and production/trading of prohibited drugs. It also covers the unrecorded production activities due to the limitations of existing surveys and administrative-based data. For the unorganized sector or IS, it is difficult to distinguish between household and business operations, and between the returns to capital and labor. Likewise, it is difficult to identify household enterprises that produce solely or partly for the market given the data limitations.

In 2008, an Informal Sector Survey (ISS) was conducted by the National Statistics Office, in collaboration with the UNESCAP. While there were previous IS surveys conducted by the NSO in Metro Manila, the 2008 ISS was the first nationwide data collection operation on informal sector which was conducted in two phases: the first phase designed to provide data for estimating employment in the informal sector enterprise and informal employment conducted as a rider of the 2008 Labor Force Survey (LFS) and the second phase which is designed to obtain data for estimating the contribution of informal sector enterprise to the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The results of the survey were presented in a dissemination forum in 2009.

In addition, issues related to the measurement of informal employment and other labor-related statistics are discussed in the NSCB-created Interagency Committee on Labor and Productivity Statistics (IACLPS) and its Small Working Group on Informal Employment Statistics.

## **9. Disability Statistics**

Disability statistics in the Philippines are collected thru the following:

- (a) Administrative reports from communities (residential and non-residential) and centers submitted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Offices and compiled in a database maintained by the DSWD Central Office

Data on the number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) served are generated by the DSWD on a quarterly, semestral and annual basis. These are based on administrative reports from communities (residential and non-residential) and centers submitted by the DSWD Field Offices and compiled in a database, maintained by the DSWD Central Office. These are being disseminated through the annual "Compendium of DSWD and Selected Social Welfare and Development Statistics," with 2009 as the latest and

other DSWD publications such as the Annual Report, other statistical bulletins and country papers.

Data/information on the number of PWDs and other inputs are being provided to various requesting agencies in support to the implementation of programs and services to PWDs. These include the National Human Rights Action Plan 2009-2014, particularly on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), accomplishment reports on PWDs submitted to the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and special reports submitted to other requesting agencies and stakeholders.

(b) Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities (PRPWDs)

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the NCDA developed a web-based system for the issuance of PWD Identification Cards which was launched in September 2009 during the National Disability Summit and was aimed to eventually establish the Philippine Registry for PWDs for the issuance of the identification numbers and the generation of statistical reports. In the course of the implementation, however, the DOH Central Office encountered problems in the operationalization of the system. At present, the web-based system was temporarily discontinued. The DOH Central Office is still in the process of further improving the system.

(c) Census of Population and Housing (CPH) collected by the National Statistics Office every ten years

The short set of Washington Group on Disability Statistics questions on disability was included in the 2010 CPH. The Philippines participated in the field test activities conducted in 2009 for the ESCAP/Washington Group (WG) Project on the Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The results of the field test were presented by the NSO in the 9<sup>th</sup> WG Meeting in Tanzania and submitted to UNESCAP in December 2009.

Collection of data on disability was done through the 2010 CPH, with the following questions:

*“Does \_\_\_\_\_ have any physical or mental disability?”*

*“Does \_\_\_\_\_ have any difficulty/problem in \_\_\_\_\_?”*

- *seeing, even when wearing eyeglasses*
- *hearing, even when using a hearing aid*
- *walking or climbing steps*
- *remembering or concentrating*
- *self-caring (bathing or dressing)*
- *communicating using his/her usual language*

## 10. Gender Statistics

The NSCB created the Interagency Committee on Gender Statistics (IACGS) in 2002 to resolve statistical issues and address emerging concerns on gender and development (GAD) to be able to provide relevant, reliable, and timely data for planning and programming purposes concerning women. The Committee is composed of data producers and users, with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)<sup>4</sup> as the Chair.

Recent developments and regular undertakings in the area of gender statistics include the following:

(a) Compilation, publication, and dissemination of GAD statistics and key indicators at the national and subnational level (i.e., regional disaggregation, and in some cases, provincial), which is a regular and continuing activity;

(b) Compilation and dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators, a continuing activity which was started in 2004;

(c) Development of a Methodology and Estimation of Gender Development Index (GDI) for all provinces of the country as well as for cities and municipalities of five pilot provinces for the years 2000 and 2003, which was done in 2007;

(d) Development of the Child Development Index (CDI) methodology as well as the generation of CDI estimates covering the years 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008; the 2008 CDI was done in 2010;

(e) Preparation and updating of the Statistical Handbook on Women and Men in the Philippines, done every three years;

(f) Preparation of the Statistical Annex of the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparity (joint project with UNICEF), done in 2009;

(g) Production of Factsheet on Women and Men and/or Gender Watch, done annually;

(h) Maintenance and quarterly updating of the on-line gender statistics in the Philippines database at <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/gender/index.asp> and online statistics on children database at <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/children/index.asp>;

(i) Preparation of a Directory of Gender Statistics and Focal Points (joint effort with the IACGS), done in 2010 with regular updating;

(j) Studies on Improving the Way We Measure the Increasing Contribution of women in Nation Building and Baseline Study on Women Entrepreneur and Women Workers in the Micro-Enterprise, presented in the 11<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics (NCS) on October 4-5, 2010; and

(k) Conduct of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics on 11-13 October 2010 and Interagency Expert Group Meeting (IAEG) on 14 October 2010 in the Philippines hosted by the NSCB in coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank, PCW, National

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<sup>4</sup> Formerly the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).

Statistics Office (NSO), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The major topics discussed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum on Gender Statistics dealt with the following:

- (a) Incorporating a Gender Perspective into official health statistics;
- (b) Measurement of mortality and gender statistics through civil registration and vital statistics;
- (c) Measurement of maternal health through civil registration (MDG5);
- (d) Measurement of gender dimensions of persons with disabilities;
- (e) Caring responsibilities of women and men measured through time use surveys;
- (f) Gender analysis using census data; and
- (g) Advancements in gender statistics and health in the Asia and Pacific

Further, the different regional divisions<sup>5</sup> (RDs) of the NSCB under the Subnational Statistics Office (SnSO) are also involved in gender statistics and are tasked to come up with the following activities and outputs:

- (a) Compilation, publication, and dissemination of GAD statistics and key indicators at the subnational level (i.e., provincial disaggregation);
- (b) Compilation and dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators at the subnational level;
- (c) Preparation and updating of Regional Statistical Handbook on Women and Men and/or Compendium or Handbook on Mother and Child or Statistics Situationer/ Report;
- (d) Production and dissemination of Factsheets on Women and Men and/or GenderWatch;
- (e) Maintenance and updating of GAD databanks, which are web-based for some regions, Knowledge Center for Women and Children and/or DevInfo database;
- (f) Coordination of inter-agency activities on gender statistics at the subnational level, e.g., Knowledge Network Committee on GAD Statistics;
- (g) Provision of technical assistance to local government units (LGUs), national government agencies (NGAs) and NGOs on GAD statistics;
- (h) Inclusion of gender indicators in publications and info sheets - Regional Social and Economic Trends (RSET), Quarterly Regional,

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<sup>5</sup> The NSCB is present in 9 out of 17 regions in the country.

Provincial and City Statwatch, Regional MDG Watch, Provincial Countryside in Figures; and

- (i) Posting of GAD info sheets/articles in the regional websites

The NSCB has also undertaken the following activities for the implementation of the gender-related paragraphs in the Beijing Platform for Action:

(a) Item b of article 206 states: Collect, compile, analyze and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic and other relevant indicators, including number of dependents, for utilization in policy and program planning and implementation.

The NSCB regularly updates its gender on-line database lodged at the NSCB website, compiles, analyzes and presents on a regular basis data disaggregated by age and sex.

(b) Item d of article 206 states: Designate or appoint staff to strengthen gender-statistics programs and ensure coordination, monitoring and linkage to all fields of statistical work, and prepare output that integrates statistics from the various subject areas.

The Assistant Secretary General of the NSCB currently serves as the focal point of gender statistics who, together with the Director of the Social Statistics Office, gives guidance to the Social Sectors B Division which serves as the coordinator and secretariat of the IACGS to ensure proper coordination, monitoring and linkage of all agencies/organizations who are producers/users of gender statistics. The Assistant Secretary General is also the current Chairperson of the Interagency Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS).

(c) Item h of article 206: Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the measurement of poverty among women and men including their access to resources.

Per NSCB Resolution No. 11, series of 2007- Approving the Methodology for the Generation of Official Poverty Statistics for the Basic Sectors, the NSCB started releasing official poverty statistics for 8 of the 14 basic sectors defined in the Social Reform Poverty Alleviation Act. Using this methodology, the NSCB has released 2000, 2003 and 2006 official poverty statistics for women and children at the national and regional levels.

Further, the MDG Watch lodged in the NSCB website contains the following MDG indicators:

- (i) Ratio of girls to boys in the elementary, secondary and tertiary education
- (ii) Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
- (iii) Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
- (iv) Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 years old
- (v) Maternal mortality ratio.



The PSS, through the NSCB, provided inputs to the Gender Statistics Programme Review of the UN Statistical Commission, which aims to assess the state of development of the field and recommend ways of improving programmes in order to advance the production and use of gender statistics, system wide. The NSCB provided inputs by completing the Review Questions for national statistical offices and incorporated these in the draft report. The preparation of the consolidated report is spearheaded by Ghana, in collaboration with Italy and Philippines. The Report will be presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2011.

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